



DEC.
NO. 394



15¢

Detective  Comics presents

BATMAN and ROBIN

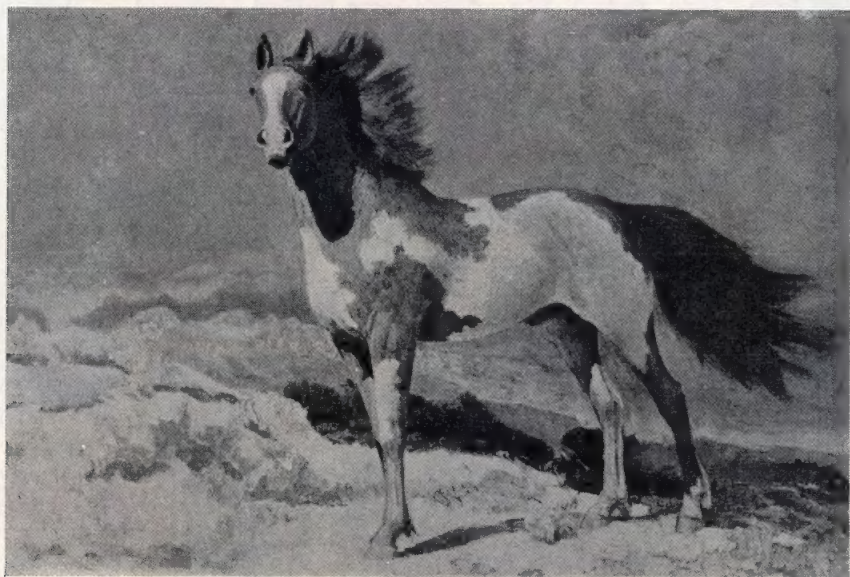


AND NOW,
BATMAN..

AN
EYE
FOR AN
EYE!

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KING OF THE STALLIONS 16" x 20" Mural

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STORY:
FRANK
ROBBINS

BATMAN

ART:
BOB BROWN
AND
JOE GIELLA

BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE'S INAUGURATION OF
"V.I.P.--VICTIMS, INC. PROGRAM--TO AID
INNOCENT VICTIMS OF CRIME, HAS NETTED
REWARDING RESULTS--AND SOME NOT SO
REWARDING! ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S ABOUT
TO BECOME...

"A VICTIM'S VICTIM!"

WAYNE-- I'M
ONE O' YORE
"VICTIMS, INC."--
AND YOU ARE
THE NEXT
ONE!

WAYNE
FOUNDATION...A
SUDDEN COMMOTION
OUTSIDE, AND BRUCE'S
LETTER TO DICK
GRAYSON AT HUDSON
UNIVERSITY IS INTER-
RUPTED BY A MENACING
INTRUDER!...

EEEEEEE!!
SHALL I CALL
THE POLICE,
MR. WAYNE?

UH-UH, MISS ATKINS--YOU KNOW
OUR RULE HERE! ALL "INTERVIEWS"
ARE-- CONFIDENTIAL!

PLEASE
CLOSE THE
DOOR--
BEHIND
YOU!

NOW, SIR--
WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM?

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COULDN'T HELP
REVERTING TO
TYPE? THOUGHT
IT WAS GOING
TO BE-- BARE
HANDS?

SO, LET'S
KEEP IT
THAT WAY!

SWISH

KCHXK



NOW DO WE SMOKE
PEACE-PIPE--OR
DO YOU STILL
WANT MY SCALP?

STILL HATE
YORE GUTS,
WAYNE--
BUT I
ADMIRE
YORE STYLE!
YER MUCHO
BIG-BRAVE...



YOU'RE PRETTY QUIEN SABÉ
YOURSELF--SO LET'S
PARLAY!

THE HANDLE'S
"DAKOTA"
JONES! AND I
AM--OR WAS--
A RACE-CAR
WRANGLER!

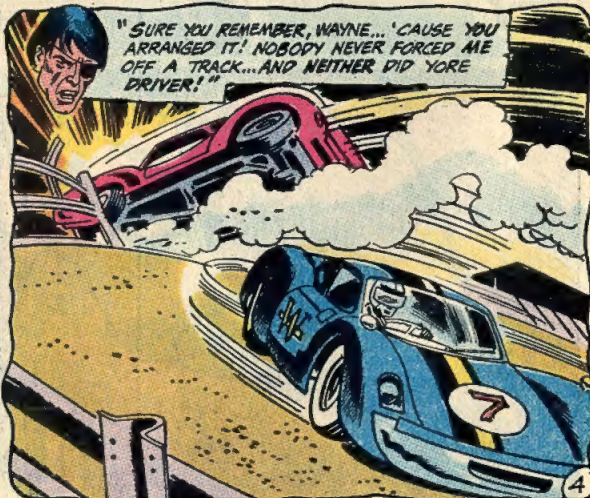
FROM WHAT
YOU SAID, YOU'RE
PART-INDIAN--BUT
WHY ARE YOU ON
THE WARPATH
FOR ME?

TILL YOU
GOT TO
ME!



DAKOTA? OF COURSE
--YOU WERE THE
FRONT-RUNNER IN
THE LAST GOTHAM-
CLASSIC CUP-
RACE, UNTIL...

YEAH, UNTIL
YORE ENTRY--
THE PHANTOM
FLASH-- BEAT
ME OUT ON
"KILLER-
TURN"!

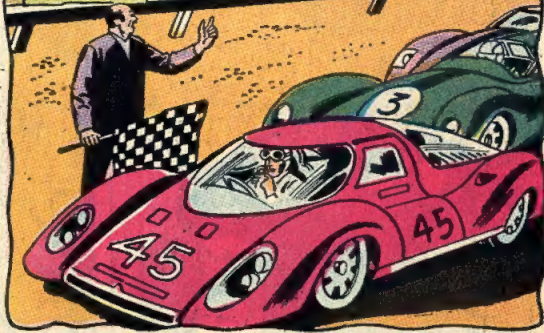


"SURE YOU REMEMBER, WAYNE... 'CAUSE YOU
ARRANGED IT! NOBODY NEVER FORCED ME
OFF A TRACK...AND NEITHER DID YORE
DRIVER!"

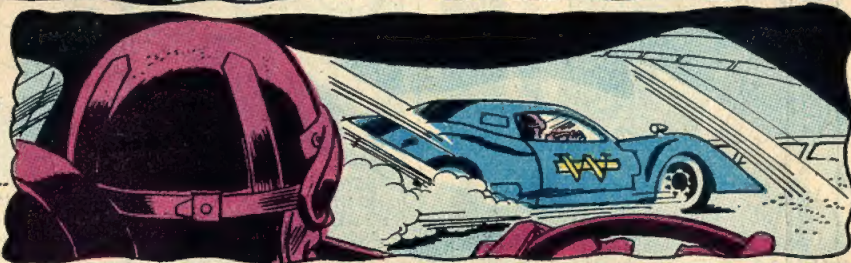
"I PUT EVERYTHIN' I OWNED INTO THAT SET O' WHEELS... ALL MY FAST WINNING-PURSES... EVERYTHIN'!"



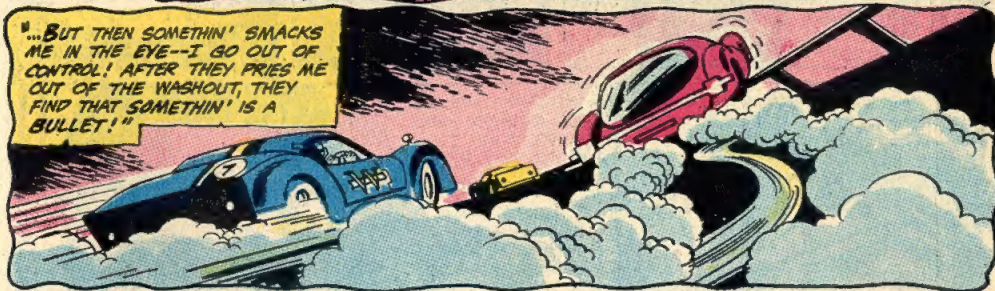
"BY THE TIME OF THE RACE, I WAS IN HOCK UP TO MY EARS... COULDN'T EVEN FOOT THE TAB FOR ACCIDENT INSURANCE... BUT I WAS THE FAVORITE!"



"AND I HAD TO WIN THAT RACE! SO WITH YER BOY HOGGIN' THE INSIDE TRACK, I TOOK THE WILD OUTSIDE-- AND I COULD HAVE MADE IT..."



"...BUT THEN SOMETHIN' SMACKS ME IN THE EYE--I GO OUT OF CONTROL! AFTER THEY PRIE ME OUT OF THE WASHOUT, THEY FIND THAT SOMETHIN' IS A BULLET!"



AN' THEN--TO SAVE YER CONSCIENCE-- YOU HAVE V.I.P. "HELP ME OUT" WITH JOB-RETRAINING...

... 'CAUSE NO ONE WANTS A ONE-EYED RACE-WRANGLER!

BUT IF YOU THINK I'M GOIN' THROUGH LIFE WEAVIN' INDIAN BASKETS OR SOMETHIN'-- I'D RUTHER BE DEAD!

AND I'M TAKIN' YOU WITH ME!



H-HOW DO YOU
KILL A GUY
THAT TURNS
HIS BACK
ON YOU?

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT
A KILLER, DAKOTA--
JUST A VICTIM OUT TO
RIGHT A VERY REAL
WRONG!

BUT RIGHT
NOW--YOU'VE
GOT SOME
PRETTY LOCO
NOTIONS ON
HOW TO
DO IT!

FOR ONE--YOU SAID MY
DRIVER DIDN'T FORCE
YOU OFF THE TRACK!
ARE YOU SUGGESTING
HE SHOT YOU?

NOW, YOU HIRED SOME
OFF-TRACK GUNSLINGER
TO BUSHWHACK ME!
YOU HAD TO WIN THAT
RACE--NO MATTER
WHAT!

HOW COULD HE? WE
BOTH HAD OUR MITTS
GLUED TO THE WHEEL--
AND ON A CURVE
LIKE THAT, IT WOULD
BE SUICIDE TO...

SO THAT'S THE
WAY YOU FIGURE IT?
YOU THINK I WAS
HARD-UP FOR
THAT PURSE?

HA! THAT'S A
LAUGH--YER
LOADED!

BUT YORE KING-
SIZED EGO NEEDED
A WIN! AFTER
LOSIN' THE LAST
TWO RACES TO
ME--YOU COULDN'T
TAKE ANOTHER
DEFEAT!

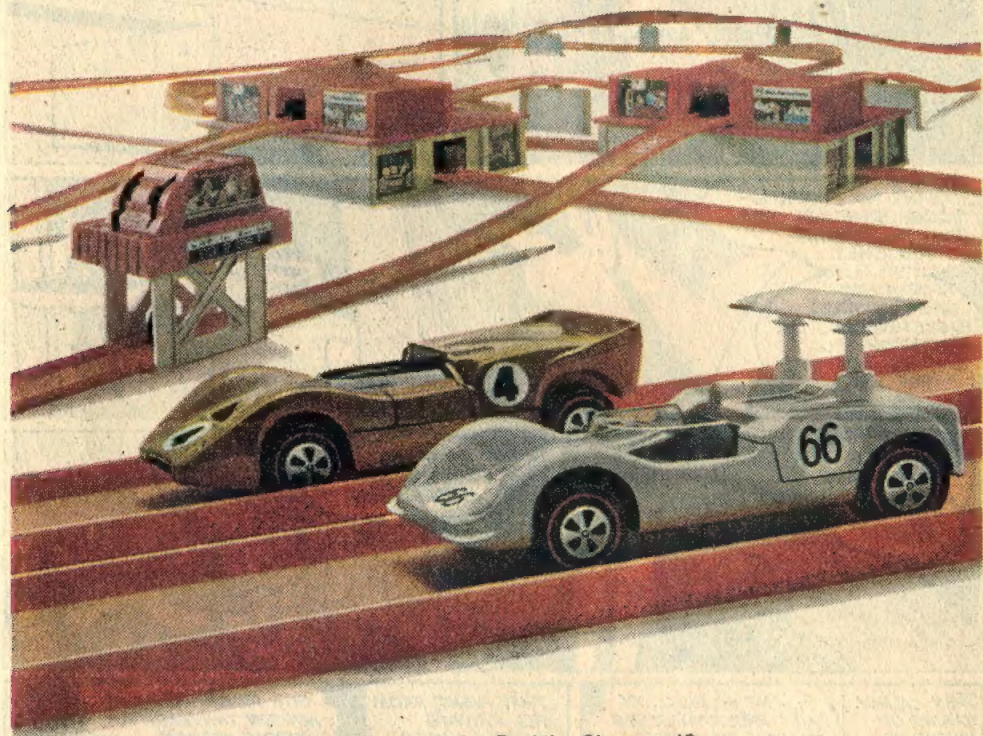
YOU DON'T KNOW
ME, DAKOTA--ANY
MORE THAN I
KNOW YOU, BUT...

...ONE THING
I DO KNOW--
YOU'RE A MAN
OF ACTION--NOT
A THINKER! YOU
DIDN'T DREAM
THAT UP ON YOUR
OWN--WHO FED
IT TO YOU?

NO ONE! 'LEAST
HE DIDN'T FORCE-
FEED IT TO ME--
HE MADE
SENSE!

HE? THEN
MY HUNCH
WAS RIGHT!

Challenge Dad to a race in the Hot Wheels® Grand Prix.



You take the McLaren and give Dad the Chaparral®. Never mind. Let him have the McLaren.

Then line up for a run over the most exciting Hot Wheels set yet. Mattel's Super-Charger™ Grand Prix.

With each Grand Prix set, you get two 2-way Super-Chargers. Each offers a sizzling power boost on two levels. And each has the stick-shift speed control.

Each set also contains enough track for two giant courses. Two lap counters. And four authentic Grand Prix Hot Wheels cars.

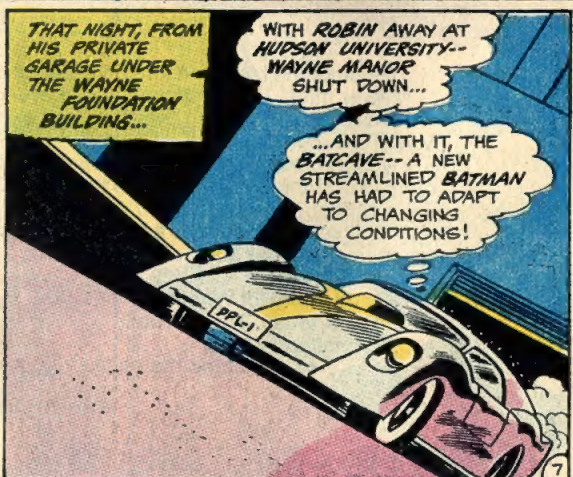
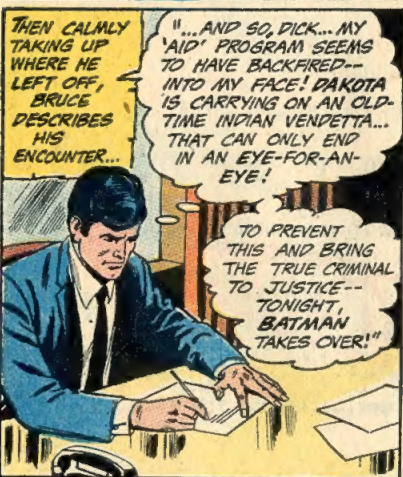
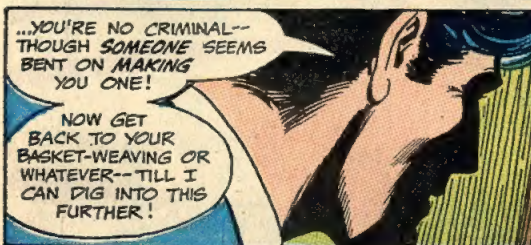
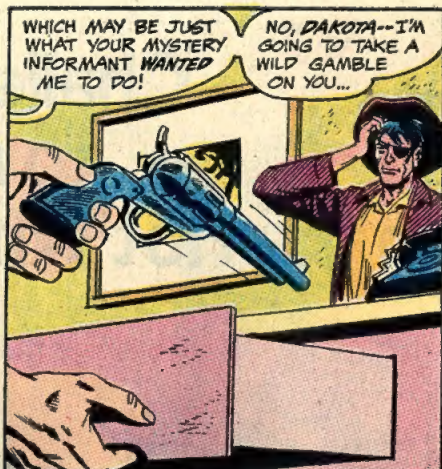
Set up your Hot Wheels Grand Prix today. Then throw out the challenge.

See if Dad can stand the pace.



Super-Charger...It Makes The Race.

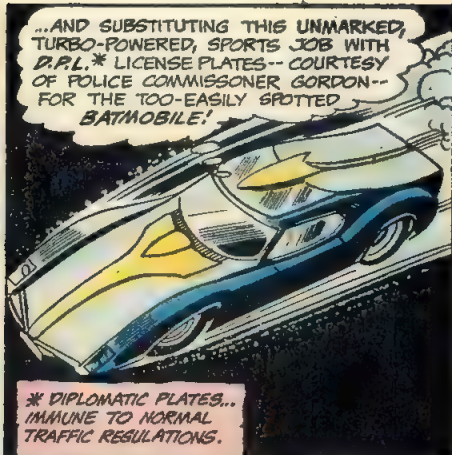
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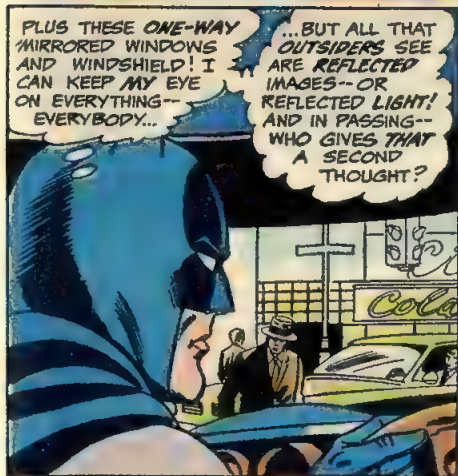


FIRST, BY CONVERTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES ATOP WAYNE FOUNDATION INTO A PENTHOUSE SUITE...

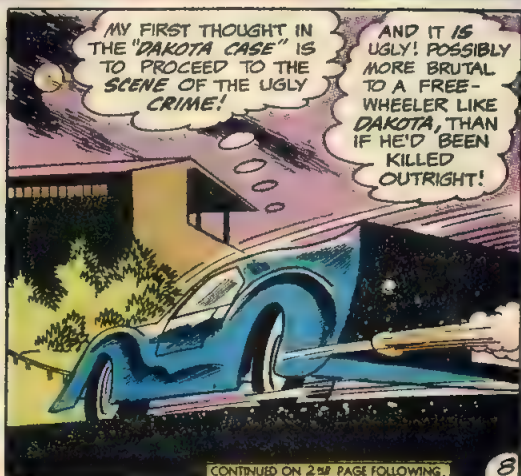
...WITH A PRIVATE ELEVATOR TO THE GARAGE BELOW...



* DIPLOMATIC PLATES... IMMUNE TO NORMAL TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.



...BUT ALL THAT OUTSIDERS SEE ARE REFLECTED IMAGES-- OR REFLECTED LIGHT! AND IN PASSING-- WHO GIVES THAT A SECOND THOUGHT?

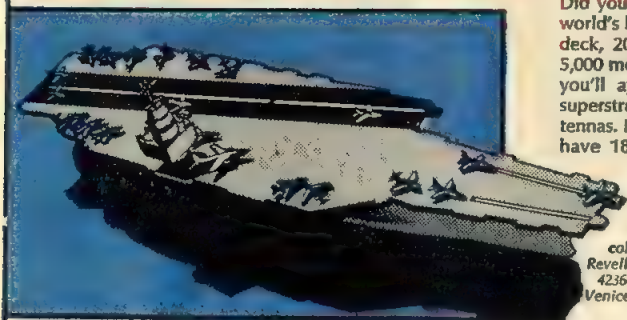


AND IT IS UGLY! POSSIBLY MORE BRUTAL TO A FREE-WHEELER LIKE DAKOTA, THAN IF HE'D BEEN KILLED OUTRIGHT!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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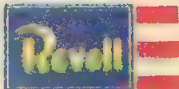
BE ENTERPRISING!



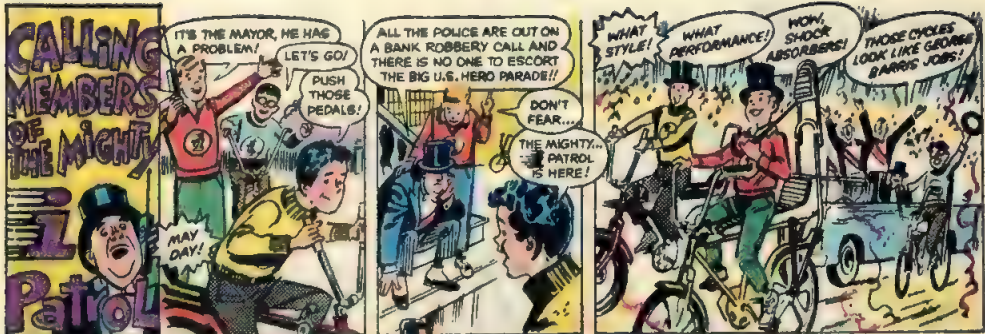
Did you know this nuclear aircraft carrier is the world's largest moving thing? With 4½-acre flight deck, 200,000 plus horsepower, she's home to 5,000 men. As your Enterprise model takes shape you'll appreciate the faithful detailing of the superstructure, missile armament and radar antennas. Put the kit's 30 planes on deck and you'll have 18½ inches of sleek, beautiful carrier.

Under \$3 wherever toys or hobbies are sold.

Send 35¢ for 1969 color catalog of new Revell kits. Revell, Inc., 4236 Glencoe Avenue, Venice, California 90291



Build her yourself • Revell's Model-of-the-Month for October • The USS Enterprise



FOILED AGAIN! THANKS TO THE MIGHTY PATROL, IT WAS THE BEST PARADE EVER, EVEN THOUGH PARADE-HATER-MORACE TURNED IN A FALSE ALARM TO SPOIL THE PARADE!

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT OUR IVERSONS.

I HATE PARADES

EXTRA LONG SADDLE WITH HEADREST

ZANY OLD COLORS

8 SPEED

PEARL HAZE HANDLE

THE BEST BIKE STORES IN YOUR TOWN HAVE BARRIS-DESIGNED IVERSON BICYCLES JUST LIKE THE ONES RIDDEN BY THE MIGHTY PATROL. SEE THEM THERE.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE YOUR PRESENT BIKE WITH THE GEORGE BARRIS CUSTOMIZING KIT. SEND THIS COUPON AND \$1.00.

iverson

DESIGNED BY GEORGE BARRIS

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I've enclosed \$1.00. Please send me the Customizing Kit of eleven colorful automotive decals plus George Barris' own booklet "Hints on Customizing Your Bike."

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

YOU'VE MET
SUPERMAN'S
PARENTS...
YOU'VE MET HIS FRIENDS...

NOW MEET
SUPERMAN'S
SECRET
FAMILY!

ALL IN THIS
GIANT COLLECTION.

ON SALE OCT. 7TH

GIANT SUPERMAN

NO. 222

144

25c

STOP! YOU MUST READ THESE STORIES OF MY SECRET FAMILY!

THE SONS OF SUPERMAN!

KAL-EL II IS SUPER LIKE HIS BROTHER!

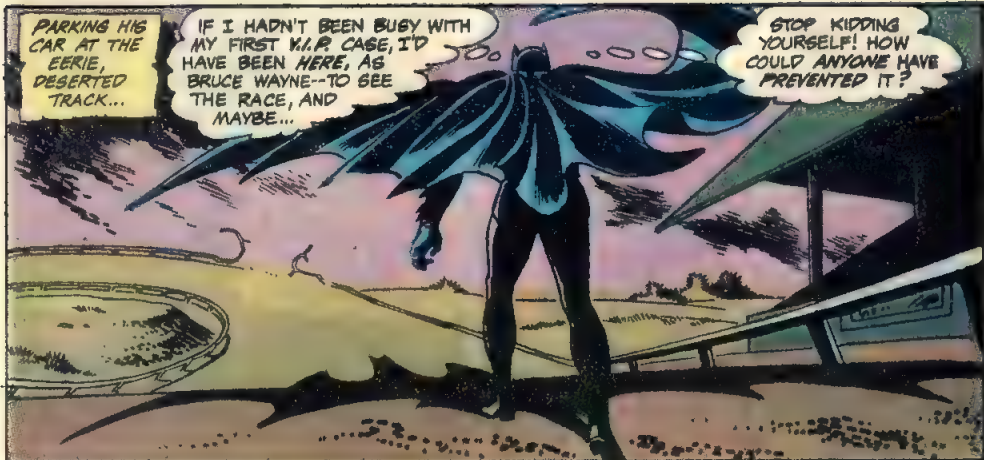
FOR-EL II IS SUPER LIKE HIS FATHER!

SUNSHINE HEART BLANK KENT FORGET!

THE MOTHER OF SUPERMAN'S SISTER!

SUPERMAN'S BROTHER!

SUPERMAN'S SISTER!



PARKING HIS
CAR AT THE
EERIE,
DESERTED
TRACK...

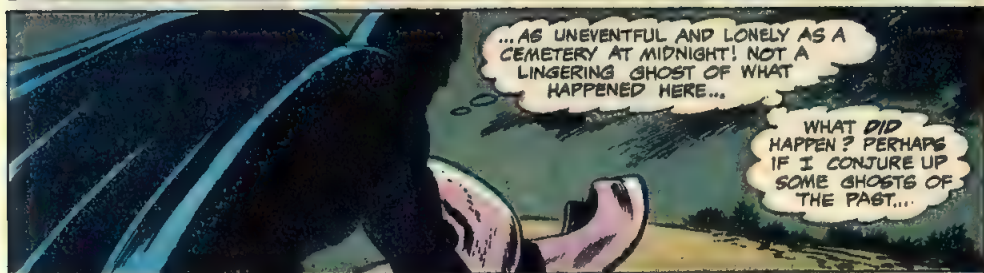
IF I HADN'T BEEN BUSY WITH
MY FIRST V.I.P. CASE, I'D
HAVE BEEN HERE, AS
BRUCE WAYNE--TO SEE
THE RACE, AND
MAYBE...

STOP KIDDING
YOURSELF! HOW
COULD ANYONE HAVE
PREVENTED IT?



'PROBABLY HAPPENED
IN THE TWINKLING
OF AN EYE!
UNFORTUNATELY,
POOR DAKOTA'S...!

NOTHING QUIETER OR CLEANER
THAN A DESERTED RACE-TRACK!
EXCEPT FOR THESE SKID
MARKS--THE BROKEN
GUARD RAIL...



...AS UNEVENTFUL AND LONELY AS A
CEMETERY AT MIDNIGHT! NOT A
LINGERING GHOST OF WHAT
HAPPENED HERE...

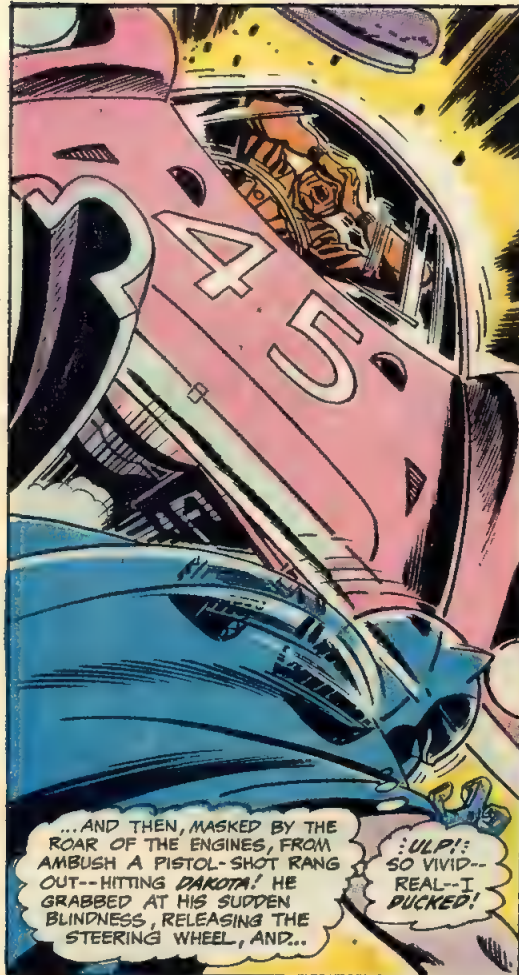
WHAT DID
HAPPEN? PERHAPS
IF I CONJURE UP
SOME GHOSTS OF
THE PAST...



THEN, IN A SUBLIMINAL
RECALL OF DAKOTA'S
VIVID DESCRIPTION...

CAN'T RECREATE THE
ROAR--THE EXHAUST
FUMES--THE CROWD
YELLING FOR BLOOD,
BUT...

I CAN JUST SEE HOW THEY MUST
HAVE BEEN, AS THEY APPROACHED
"KILLER-CURVE"...



...AND THEN, MASKED BY THE ROAR OF THE ENGINES, FROM AMBUSH A PISTOL-SHOT RANG OUT--HITTING DAKOTA! HE GRABBED AT HIS SUDDEN BLINDNESS, RELEASING THE STEERING WHEEL, AND...

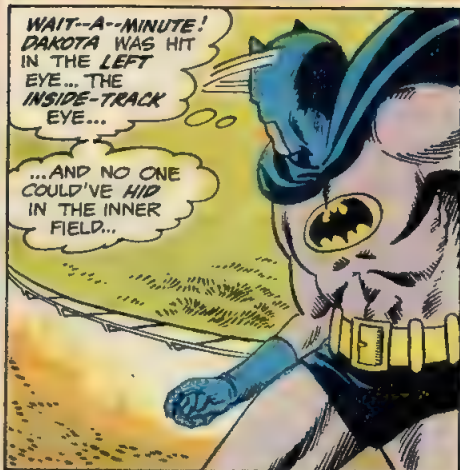
:ULP!:
SO VIVID--
REAL--I
PUCKED!

OBVIOUSLY THE SNIPER DIDN'T SHOOT FROM THE GRANDSTANDS! SHOT HAD TO COME FROM THIS FIELD...

BUT THERE'S NO COVER CLOSER THAN 300 YARDS! MAXIMUM ACCURATE PISTOL-RANGE WOULD BE LESS THAN 50! AND WITH A SPEEDING TARGET...?

WAIT--A--MINUTE! DAKOTA WAS HIT IN THE LEFT EYE... THE INSIDE-TRACK EYE...

...AND NO ONE COULD'VE HID IN THE INNER FIELD...

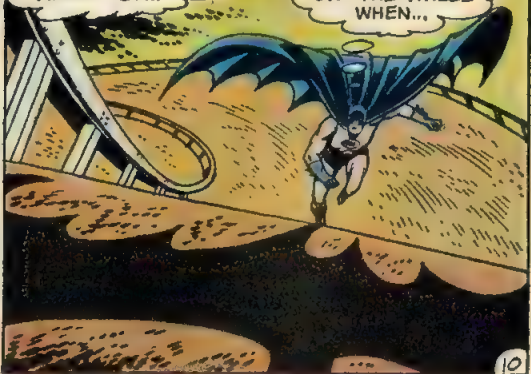


BUT THERE WAS SOMEONE TO HIS LEFT--IN THE OPEN! CLOSE BY-- CLOSE ENOUGH NOT TO MISS!

THE DRIVER OF THE WAYNE CAR--MY CAR-- SCOOT HANSON!

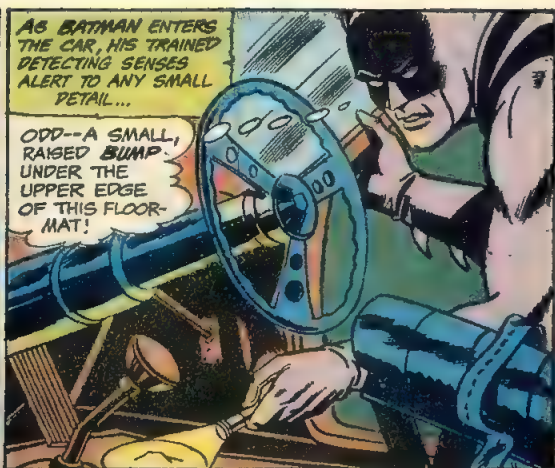
UNBELIEVABLE! SCOOT'S BEEN MY MAN FOR YEARS--NEVER IN TROUBLE! THAT I KNOW OF...

AND YET--WHO ELSE? BUT DAKOTA SAID THEY BOTH HAD THEIR HANDS ON THE WHEEL WHEN...



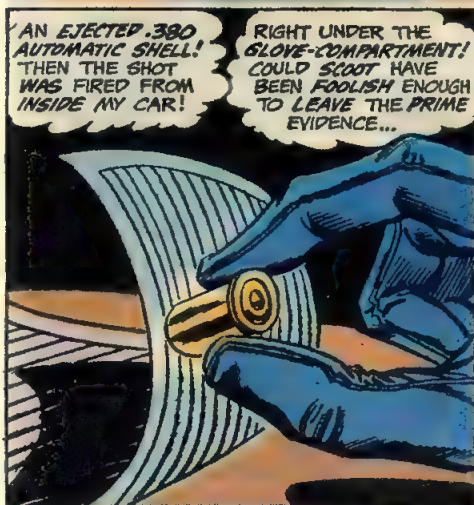


MUST GET A LOOK AT MY ENTRY--MAY FIND SOME OVERLOOKED CLUE!



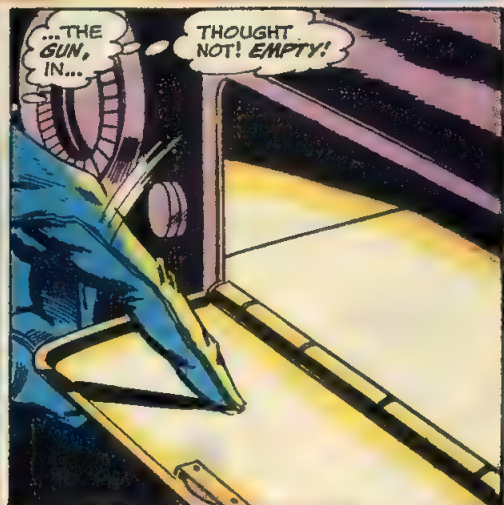
AS BATMAN ENTERS THE CAR, HIS TRAINED DETECTING SENSES ALERT TO ANY SMALL DETAIL...

ODD--A SMALL, RAISED BUMP UNDER THE UPPER EDGE OF THIS FLOOR-MAT!



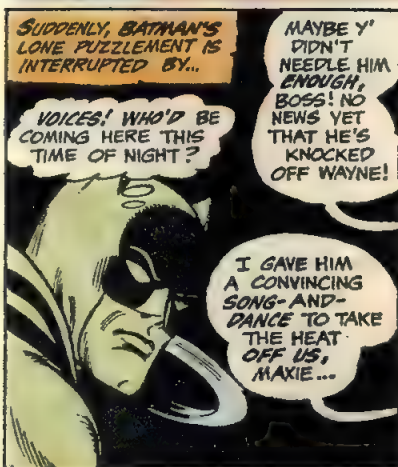
AN EJECTED .380 AUTOMATIC SHELL! THEN THE SHOT WAS FIRED FROM INSIDE MY CAR!

RIGHT UNDER THE GLOVE-COMPARTMENT! COULD SCOOT HAVE BEEN FOOLISH ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE PRIME EVIDENCE...



...THE GUN, IN...

THOUGHT NOT! EMPTY!

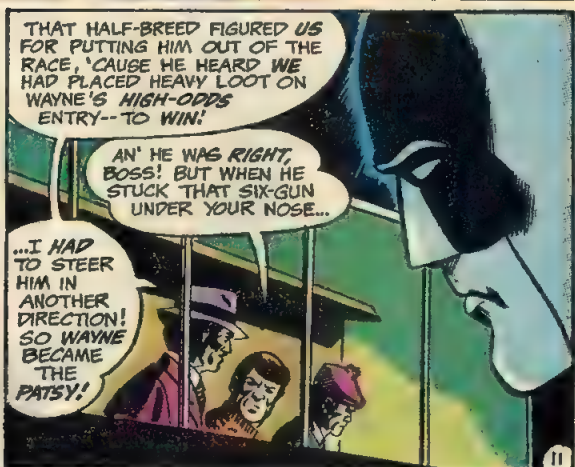


SUDDENLY, BATMAN'S LONE PUZZLEMENT IS INTERRUPTED BY...

VOICES! WHO'D BE COMING HERE THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

MAYBE Y' DIDN'T NEEDLE HIM ENOUGH, BOSS! NO NEWS YET THAT HE'S KNOCKED OFF WAYNE!

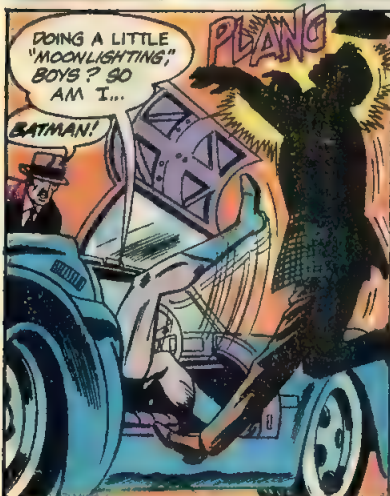
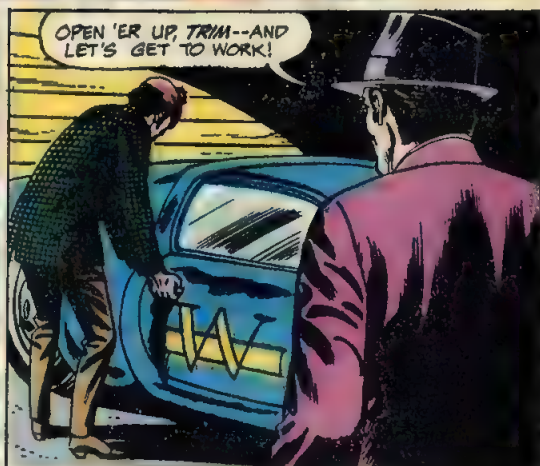
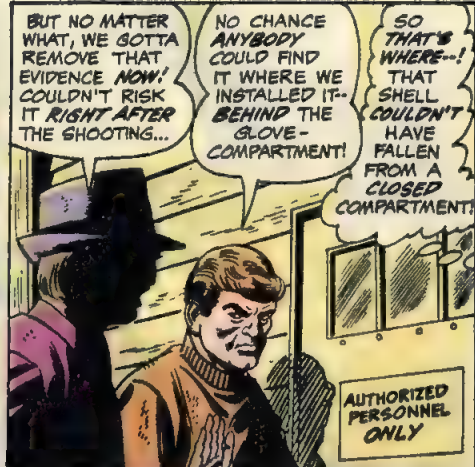
I GAVE HIM A CONVINCING SONG-AND-DANCE TO TAKE THE HEAT OFF US, MAXIE...

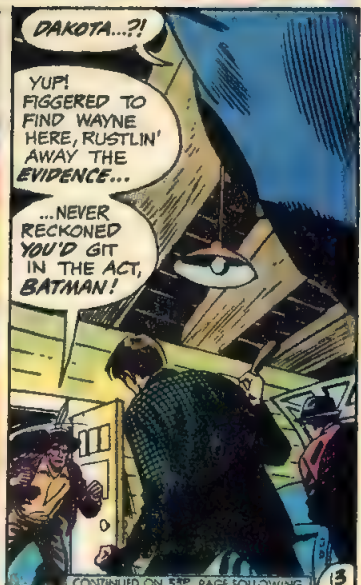
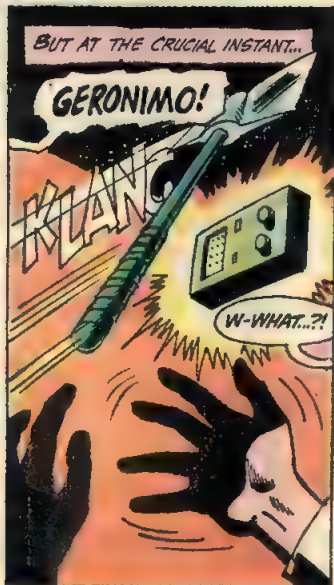
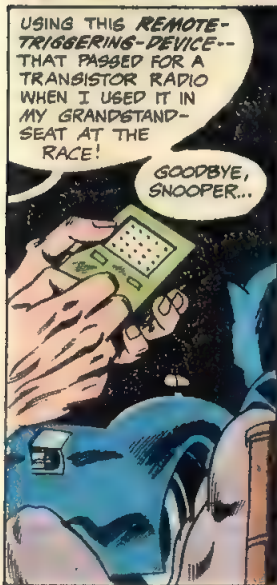
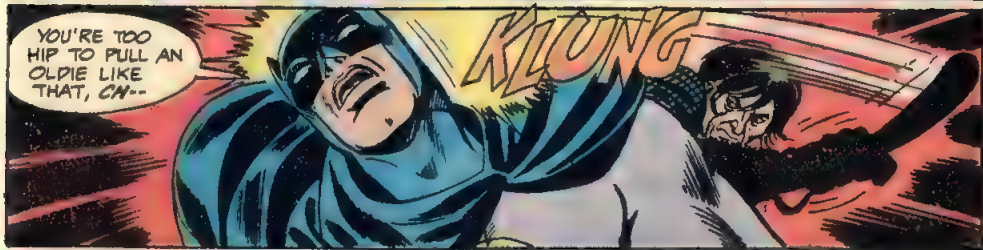
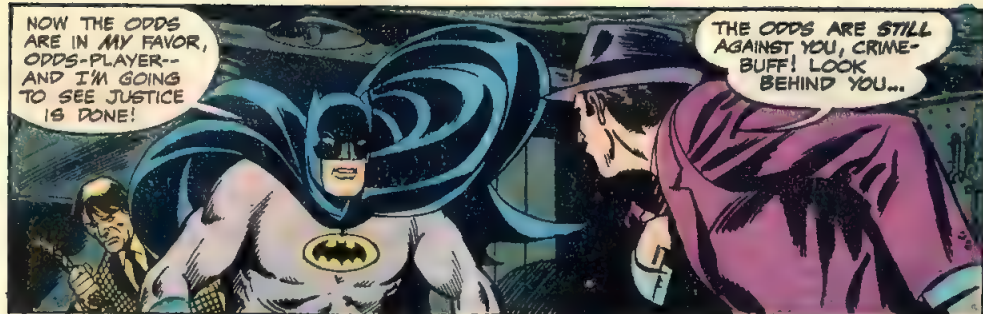


THAT HALF-BREED FIGURED US FOR PUTTING HIM OUT OF THE RACE, 'CAUSE HE HEARD WE HAD PLACED HEAVY LOOT ON WAYNE'S HIGH-ODDS ENTRY--TO WIN!

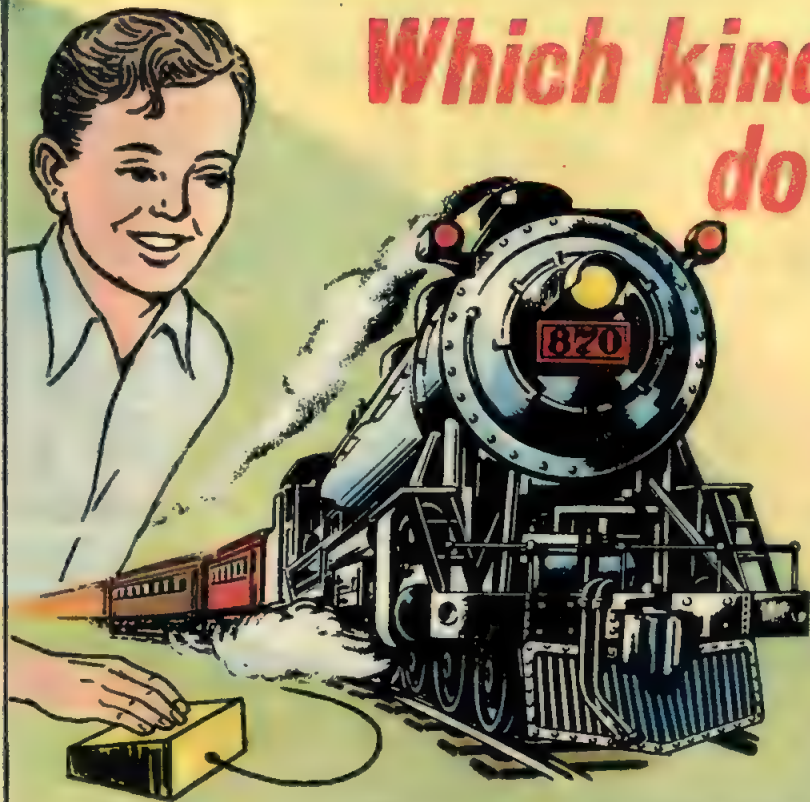
AN' HE WAS RIGHT, BOSS! BUT WHEN HE STUCK THAT SIX-GUN UNDER YOUR NOSE...

...I HAD TO STEER HIM IN ANOTHER DIRECTION! SO WAYNE BECAME THE PATSY!





Which kind of TYCO action do you prefer?



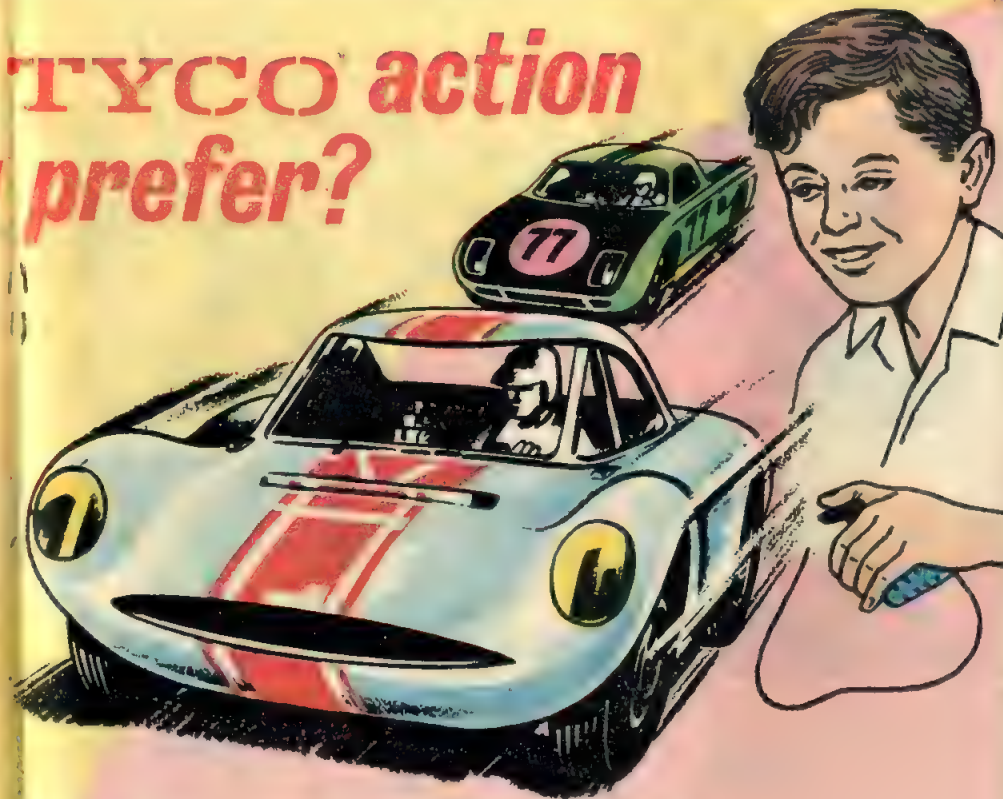
HO is America's most popular action hobby. Some fellows prefer the skill and detail of TYCO HO Scale electric trains. Others prefer the excitement and competition of TYCO road-racing. Here are the facts—you decide.

If rough-and-tumble competition is for you—TYCO road-racing gives you everything but the smell of scorched rubber and the roar of the crowd. You actually race 500 miles per hour or more in true HO scale. TYCO gives you magnificently detailed cars, more action, more track. More interesting track layouts, too, that you can tear down and rebuild in minutes, with our unique snap-together "Tyco-Lok" track. Endless hours of competitive excitement will be yours with TYCO road-racing.

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SHOP, TOY OR DEPARTMENT STORE

If your dealer can't supply you with
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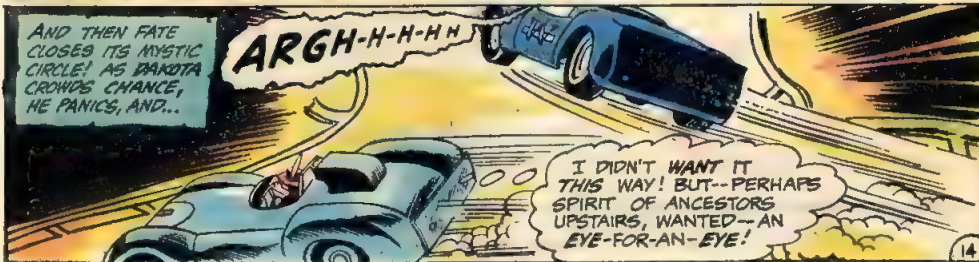
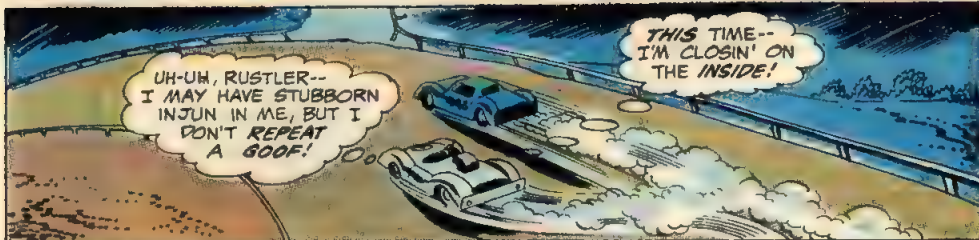
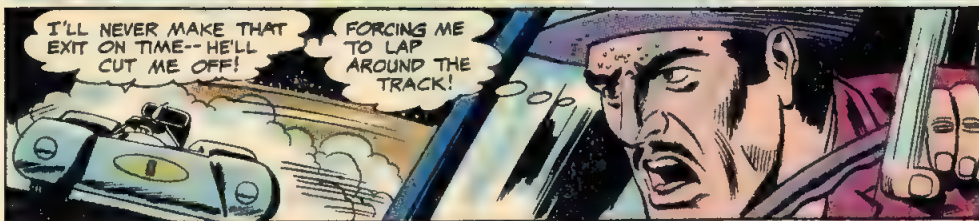
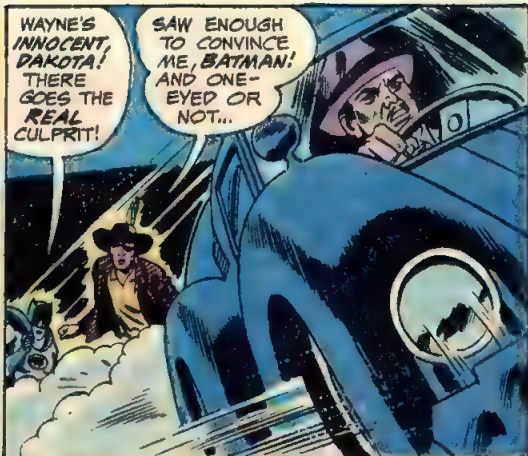
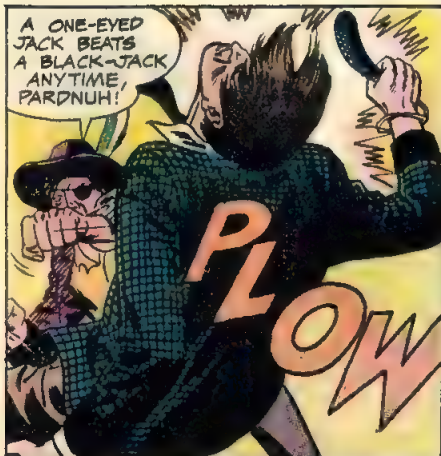
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TYCO®

CAN'T DECIDE WHICH? No wonder! Get BOTH . . . or slip this ad under Dad's pillow and let him decide. After all, you have to let parents do something.



AND SO, THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE... IN THEIR OWN MYSTERIOUS WAY... HAVE GROUND EXCEEDINGLY FINE!

I'M TERRIBLE SORRY WHAT I DID TO MR. WAYNE'S CAR, BATMAN--BUT I DID RUN A GOOD RACE DESPITE MY HANDICAP, EH?

I'M SURE WAYNE WILL SEE IT THAT WAY, DAKOTA! AND HE'LL PROBABLY PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU WITH THE RACING-COMMISSION!

DAYS LATER, AT HUDSON UNIVERSITY...

"I COULD HAVE HANDLED THEM ALONE, DICK... BUT I DECIDED TO LET DAKOTA TAKE THE PLAY AWAY FROM ME! HE HAD TO WIN THAT RACE--ON HIS OWN!"

HMMM--OUR LETTERS MUST'VE **CROSSED!** BY NOW BRUCE SHOULD BE READING OF...

WHAT'S NEW AT YOUR END? HAVEN'T HEARD YET... BRUCE!"

HE SHOULD BE... AND IS! IN THE FOLLOW-UP ROBIN STORY STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE--**"STRIKE...WHILE THE CAMPUS IS HOT!"**

THE END

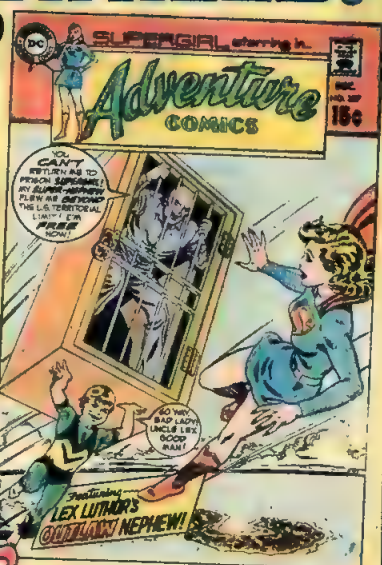
15

DANGER AND THRILLS!



ON SALE OCT. 23RD

HIGH-SPEED DEATH FOR Wonder Woman? HAS LUTHOR FOUND AN EVIL SUPER-TOT TO COMBAT SUPERGIRL?



ON SALE OCT. 30TH

ROBIN

in: **STRIKE... WHILE THE CAMPUS IS**

HOT

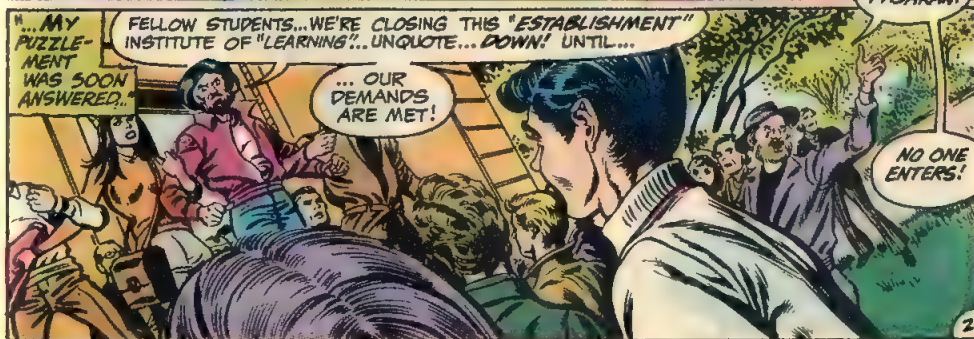
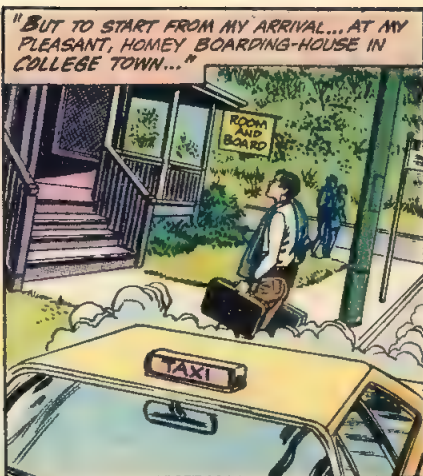
AN EXPECTANT MOMENT IN THE NEW PENTHOUSE APARTMENT OF BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE, ATOP WAYNE FOUNDATION, AS HE GETS HIS FIRST REGISTERED LETTER FROM FRESHMAN DICK GRAYSON... AWAY AT HUDSON UNIVERSITY!...

I--I COULD HARDLY RESTRAIN MYSELF, MASTER BRUCE--TILL YOU GOT BACK FROM YOUR MISSION!

I MUST KNOW...

AND SO YOU SHALL, ALFIE... YOU'RE AS MUCH HIS FOSTER-FATHER AS I AM!

STORY BY:
FRANK ROBBINS
ART BY:
GIL KANE
AND
MURPHY ANDERSON



I'D WALKED SHACK INTO A SHUT-OUT! I ASKED AN 'OLD-TIMER'...

WHO IS SHE--
AND THEY?

"FIRE-BRAND" FRANK--
OLD LADY OF JONAH
RAMM! HE'S THE
MOUTHPIECE IN THE
BEARD-- LEADER OF
"C.T.T..."

"CITIZENS
TOMORROW--
TODAY!"

HMM, HE'S GOT
QUITE A
FOLLOWING...

UH-UH--HE'S THE "VOCAL
MINORITY"! MEANING--THE
LOUDEST! MOST OF US WANT
IN-- TO GET ON WITH WHY
WE'RE HERE...

YEAH--
TO
LEARN!

BUT NOT ENOUGH--TO FIGHT FOR IT? YOU'RE
GOING TO LET THAT HANDFUL OF...

NOW HEAR THIS--
O MOST EXALTED
ADMINISTRATORS--
WHEREVER YOU'RE
HIDING!

YOU CAN CALL
IN THE LAW--THE
STATE MILITIA--
THE ARMY...

...BUT WE'RE NOT
BUDGING TILL WE
GET OUR JUST
DEMANDS!

THIS IS YOUR DEAN! NOW
HEAR THIS-- CAREFULLY!

WE HAVE NO INTENTION
OF BEING PROVOKED INTO
VIOLENCE ON THIS CAMPUS!
WE WILL CALL NO POLICE--
NOW OR EVER!

BUT WE WILL
MEET AND TALK--
WHENEVER YOU'RE
READY!

THAT SHOULD TAKE
THE WIND OUT OF THEIR
SAILS! HOW CAN THEY
JUSTIFY THEIR
BEHAVIOR IN SUCH
AN ATMOSPHERE
OF FAIR PLAY?

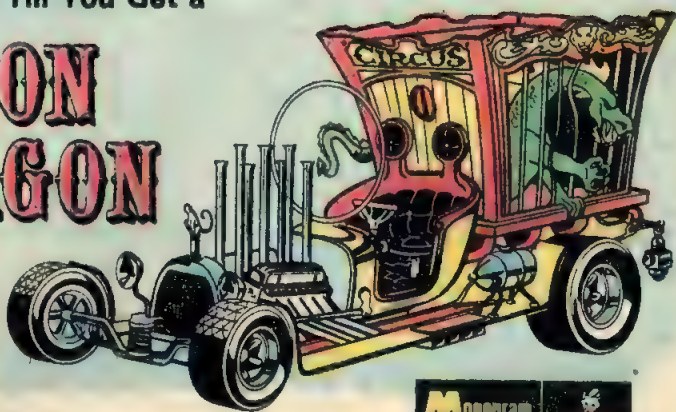
SURE MAKES
SENSE!

PARLAY, C.T.T... PARLAY!
TALK NOW!

Hold Everything 'Till You Get a

DRAGON WAGON

The Crazy New
Fun Car Model
by Monogram



At Your Favorite Store

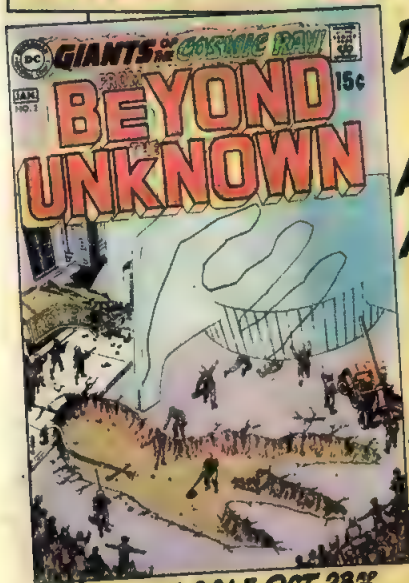
It's a crazy-like Tom Daniel design. A combination of the circus theme and the newest custom goodies. Dig the cage and bars and the mean, fire-spitting dragon inside. Cobra engine. Stylized body with "circusy"

heavy scroll decoration. More than one-half the parts are chrome finished. Get a Dragon Wagon Kit at your favorite store and join the fun parade. Around \$2.00.

Monogram Models, Inc., Subsidiary of Mattel, Inc., Morton Grove, Illinois



WHO DONE IT? WHO IS IT?

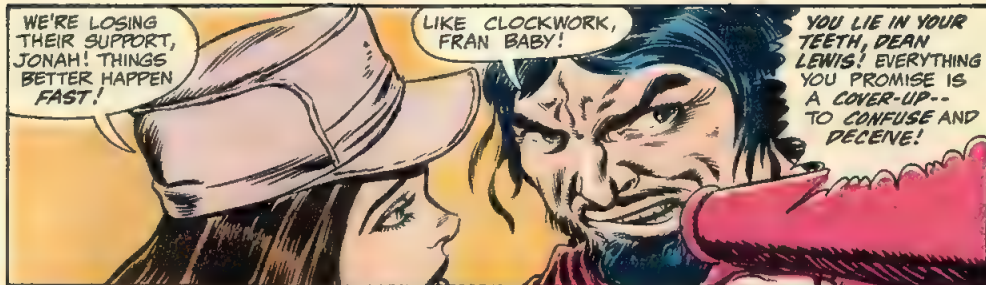


ON SALE OCT. 23rd

DISCOVER
THE
AMAZING
ANSWERS
IN
THESE
LATEST
DC
HITS!



ON SALE OCT 28th



WE'RE LOSING
THEIR SUPPORT,
JONAH! THINGS
BETTER HAPPEN
FAST!

LIKE CLOCKWORK,
FRAN BABY!

YOU LIE IN YOUR
TEETH, DEAN
LEWIS! EVERYTHING
YOU PROMISE IS
A COVER-UP--
TO CONFUSE AND
DECEIVE!



SEE?! DEAN LEWIS--AHANIAS--LIAR--
BETRAVER!

EEEEEE



"AND THEN,
DESPITE MY
"VERY SPECIAL
RESPECT FOR
THE LAW,
MY FAITH
WAS SLIGHTLY
SHOOK UP
WHEN...!"

CLEAR
AWAY--OR
WE'LL RUN
YOU ALL
IN!

"I'D HEARD THESE STORIES...BUT NEVER WITNESSED
ONE! THE C.T.T. LEADERS OFFERED NO RESISTANCE,
BUT..."



PINKO
PUNKS--
MOVE!

"AND THEN, BRUCE, IF EVER I SAW A CASE OF OVER-REACTION..."

SHAME! SHAME! DON'T
LET THOSE "PI--"...

SHUT YOUR
BIG MOUTH, SISTER! DON'T
EVER CALL AN OFFICER
BY THAT FOUL WORD!

"I'M AFRAID...
ALFRED... I
PARTLY LOST
MY HEAD! I
STARTED AFTER
HIM, TO PROTEST..."

G-GOOD HEAVENS--NO!
MASTER DICK--
NOT THAT!

CAN'T
BELIEVE HE
WOULD
MYSELF,
ALF... BUT
MORE
FOLLOWS!

"...AND WHAT I SAW NEXT...PRECIPITATED MY RASH ACTION!"

YOU CAN'T DO--
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING!

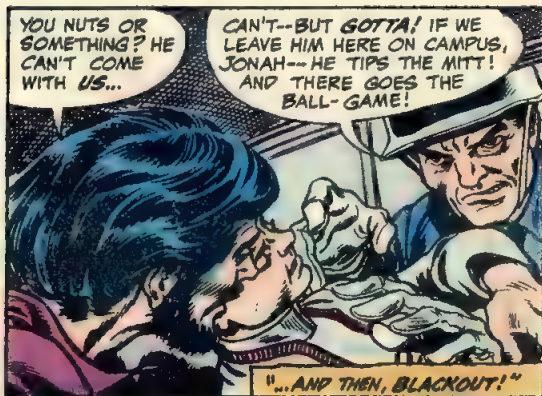
YOU'RE
ALL...

PHO--NES...

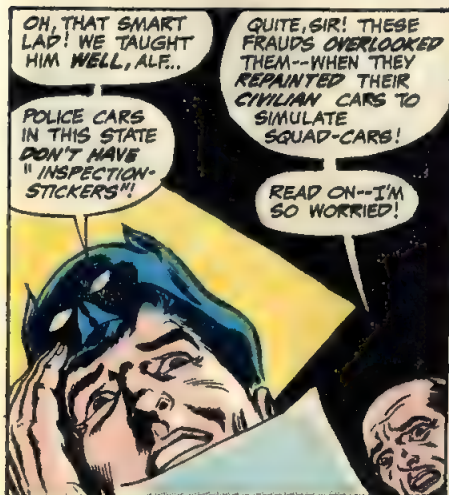
THWACK!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

5



"THEY HAD TO TAKE ME ALONG, ALL RIGHT! I'D DISCOVERED THEY WERE PHONIES! FAKE POLICE! ONE SMALL DETAIL TRIPPED THEM UP--THAT CAR-INSPECTION STICKER!"



"...RIGHT UP TO THE FRONT POOR OF THE POLICE LOCK-UP!"

CHIEF HAWKINS--
ALL OF HUDSON U
DEMANDS THE
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF
OUR C.T.T. LEADERS!

LEADERS?
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT, YOUNG
LADY?

"CUTE FRAN
HAD ALREADY
ALERTED THE
PRESS, TV--
THE WORKS!
THEN, SHE
POURED IT
ON!"

YOU HEAR? HE
DENIES EVERYTHING!
THE "BUST"--THE
BEATINGS--THE
RAID ITSELF!

C'MON, CHIEF!
THIS IS STILL A
DEMOCRACY! IF
YOU HAVEN'T
GOT THE KIDS,
IT'S EASY
ENOUGH TO
PROVE!

"A COOL CUSTOMER, THIS HAWKINS... TOOK UP THE SUGGESTION PRONTO!"

CONVINCED? NOW WHERE
ARE THESE POOR--
BRUTALIZED--KIDS WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO
HAVE LIT INTO?

THE BIG COVER-UP! HE'S
HIDING THEM SOMEWHERE
--AFRAID TO SHOW
THEIR POOR, WOUNDED
BODIES!

"BUT THE ONLY ONE WOUNDED WAS ME!
AND THEY WERE SURE HIDING ME...
THEY--THE C.T.T. LEADERS AND THEIR
PHONEY POLICE BUDDIES!"

WE DON'T WANT
HIM HURT--BUT
WHAT DO WE DO
WITH HIM?

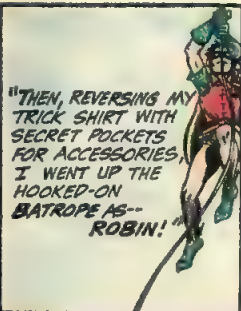
STORE HIM IN
THAT HALF-EMPTY
SILO OVERNIGHT!
BY THEN...

"...IT'LL BE TOO
LATE FOR ANYBODY
TO STOP THIS!

BY TOMORROW THAT UNIVERSITY
WILL BE CLOSED TIGHTER
THAN A CLAM WITH
A CRAMP!

"AFTER A DISCREET WAIT, I DREW OUT
THE BATROPE I'D CONCEALED IN MY
HOLLOW BELT..."

"THE SUDDEN DROP BROUGHT BACK WHAT FEW
WITS I HAD LEFT!"



"THEN, REVERSING MY TRICK SHIRT WITH SECRET POCKETS FOR ACCESSORIES, I WENT UP THE HOOKED-ON BATROPE AS--
ROBIN!"

"SILENTLY I DROPPED IN ON THEIR SECRET CONFAB...AND WITNESSED A MYSTIFYING RITUAL!"



"THE 'COPS' WERE BANDAGING THE C.T.T. LEADERS!"

NOW WHEN WE GET THE GO-AHEAD SIGNAL FROM YOUR GAL-FRIEND, JONAH...



...YOU SNEAK US INTO THE BACK OF THE TOWN JAIL... AND FRAN GIVES THE LIE TO THE FUZZ!

THEN WITH THE ENTIRE CAMPUS ENRAGED BY THE DUPLICITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION...

WE CALL A STRIKE VOTE--AND SHUT DOWN THE WHOLE BLOODY ESTABLISHMENT!

"I BIDED MY TIME... AND THEN THE BREAK CAME!"

YOU KIDS ARE GONNA NEED STRENGTH! WE'LL RUSTLE UP SOME GRUB--BE RIGHT BACK!

"THESE ODDS I LIKED BETTER! I DROPPED LIKE AN AVENGING LIGHTNING-BOLT HURLED BY THOR, AND..."

NO NEED TO FAKE INJURIES, JONAH BOY--I'LL HAND YOU SOME LEGITS!

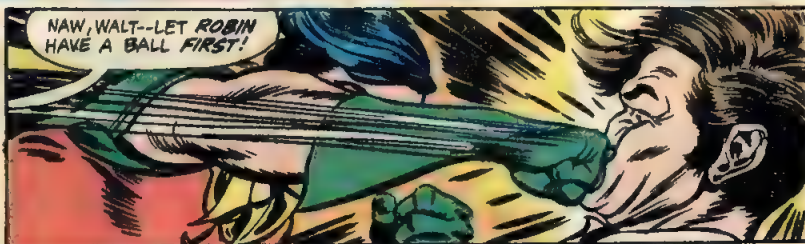


GOT TO STOP THEM! BUT THE ODDS...?





"I WAS SO BUSY WITH MY FINISHER THAT I DIDN'T HEAR, UNTIL TOO LATE..."



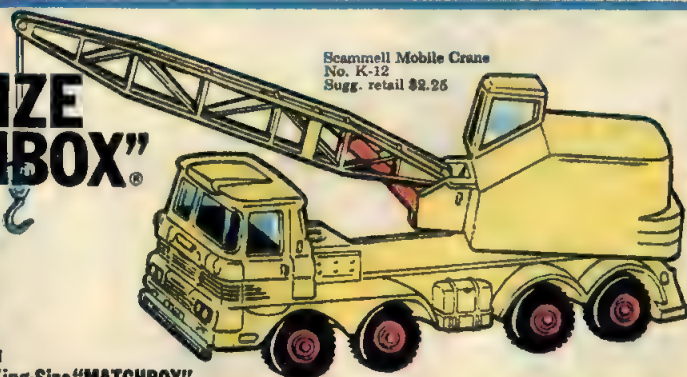
NEXT "DROP OUT... OR DROP DEAD!"

NEW KING-SIZE "MATCHBOX" MODEL OF THE MONTH.

The tough jobs call for King-Size "MATCHBOX".

The new Scammell Mobile Crane looks like it just rolled in from the construction site. Check out the exciting details: four axles, a crane operator cab that rotates a full 360° just like its big brother, and a hoist that can be raised and lowered. Every real "MATCHBOX" expert needs one. And to be sure your collection is up to date, write for free catalogue.

Scammell Mobile Crane
No. K-12
Sugg. retail \$2.25



Dear Editor:

Highlighted by an incredible (except for that blown-up title logo) cover, one of the best tailored criminals to make the *Batman* scene in quite a while, and by the usual excellent script and art, *Detective Comics* #390 can easily be pronounced a success. "If the Coffin Fits—Wear It", a tricky play on an old cliché, portrayed an excellent villain in a classic *Batman* mystery that offered many original ideas.

In analysis, Frank Robbins' script had a great deal of good going for it. The mysterious aura built around the *Masquerader* from the outset contributed heavily to the amazement towards the revelation of his identity at the yarn's conclusion. For once, the criminal did not tip his hand with clues to *Batman* because of "a compelling inner force" or because he wanted to taunt the "helpless" *Caped Crusader* but rather; "to set *Batman* up for the kill"! The ruse of the *Masquerader* obtaining the name of *Batman's* tailor helped lead the unsuspecting reader away from the trail of his identity. Another added twist was that of *Batman's* failure to detect the faked killing, leading to his blind rage which allowed him to blunder into the plan of Sam Tweed. Both the deathtrap and *Batman's* escape were real and convincing. About the only flaw in the entire script was that classic conclusion comment... *The Soggy End*...which can be added to last issue's memorable...*Soggy End*...How about THE END of these endings?

Of course, not to overlook the masterful artwork that decorated this script...praise must be handed out to both Bob Brown and Joe Giella who not only turned out the "mysterious and fear-inspiring" *Batman* that all fandom has clamored for, but also delivered (1) an excellent villain, resplendent with muscles, mystery and malevolence; (2) some brilliantly illustrated fight scenes, with the torn and shredded garments of the *Caped Crusader* done to perfection; (3) a brilliant inking job on pages 11-14 in which both combatants truly appeared engaged in a shadowy and sinister confrontation.

—MIKE OSLANCE, Hoffman Estates, Ill.

(That reference of yours to the "mysterious and fear-inspiring *Batman* that all fandom has clamored for" is a very timely one, for next issue's "Secret of the Waiting Graves" is such a story in that mold, artistically rendered by Neal Adams, classically scripted by Denny O'Neil—Editor)

Dear Editor:

After the 389th and 390th issues of *Detective Comics*, I have come to believe that the writers for National Comics are either very desperate for stories or very imaginative. I've come to this conclusion from reading the premises of the last two *Batman* stories. The first in #389 was taken from a number of complaint letters dealing with *Batman's* image, that it was not frightening enough. Many of these letters said, "Bring back the 'old *Batman*!'" So you did... in one of the most entertaining stories you've printed in quite a while. Now you've taken a subject that everyone has joked about, but no one has ever tried to explain: how does a super-hero get his unusual costumes?

I was one of those who believed that all super-heroes made their own costumes. To me, it seemed strange for a hero to go into a tailor's shop and ask for a costume. Like something out of *Mad Magazine*.

So when I saw *Batman* on the phone asking for a costume, I thought you were going to print one of those "funny" *Batman* stories, where *Batman* would spend most of his time keeping some little inept soul from getting himself killed.

Well, at least the situation was kept realistic through the tailor's relationship with the *Caped Crusader*. It was a businessman-customer contact, not one of comic foil (circa 1940) and serious crime-buster or sympathetic confidant (a la *Green Lantern's* Pieface) and troubled super-hero.

The *Masquerader's* identity should have been obvious, for Sam was the only suspect. The story itself was fairly good and the ideas of the Pneumatic disguise and the special moisture-absorbing costume were very good.

The *Robin* solo story, "Countdown to Chaos," was good in both artwork and story-line, but there's one thing about the strip that bothers me. I know *Robin* is a teen-ager and his stories will have a teen-ager-line running through the plot, but I'd rather see something else in the way of stories. I am somewhat fed up with teen-age heroes getting involved in teen-age stories. You do this in *Teen Titans* and all I seem to see is teen-age rebels of one sort or another from hippies to motorcycle bums and so-called "hip" language which is usually "resting in peace" by the time you print it.

But worse yet, after *Robin* helps some under-30 kid, the *Boy Wonder* says to him in mature wisdom, "Don't feel bad, Billy. Maybe you have pimples on your face, but develop your own inner qualities so that people will like you for yourself, and not for the juicy handouts you give them!" Whew! After that; one almost expects the flag to start waving and a chorus to start singing "America" in the background. What I'm trying to say is I'd rather see *Robin* deal with teens indirectly and adults directly. Have *Robin* deal with adult crooks and to me, everything will be all right.

—JAMES HAGGENMILLER, Jersey City, N.J.

(But if *Robin* were to be caught up in the adult whirl, the stories would tend to be *Batman*-like adventures! The way we see it, in a solo *Robin* story he should be type-cast (so to speak) in a role particularly suitable to his individual self, mingling with his set, rather than with his elders. Such a story appears in the current issue.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

In a recent *Batman's Hot-Line—Extra* column, correspondent George Jacob made an extremely interesting and valid point—that by socializing with the general public and making himself an oft-seen man-about-town, *Batman* lacked mystery. The opinion stated was that *Batman* should be more enigmatic in order to preserve his image.

But just as he should keep his distance from the general public to remain effective, so should he leave certain things a mystery to his readers. Defying the classic saying that "familiarity breeds contempt", Frank Robbins persists in explaining certain facets of Bruce Wayne's life that are better left not revealed. This "humanization" of the formerly elusive, mysterious *Caped Crusader*—an issue pursued doggedly in *Detective's* lettercols—has manifested itself most recently in a story about how *Batman* gets his costumes, "If the Coffin Fits—Wear It!" (clean title, that) in *Detective* #390.

The whole basis of the story—who *Batman's* tailor is—smacks of those perfectly awful "origin stories" that were a staple of *Batman*-readers' diet back in the 50's—"Secret of the Batmobile," "Secrets of the Bat-arangs," that sort of thing. Of course, building a story around such a premise places the writer under a great temptation to bore the reader out of his skull, but strangely enough, Robbins carried it off quite nicely!

The novel twists were interesting in sufficient profusion to make the story interesting (i.e., the shrinking costume gimmick, and the *Masquerader* turning out to be Sam Tweed, etc.)...SAM TWEED! That brings up another issue. "Shadows of B.O. Plenty!" Robbins has enough trouble naming his characters sensibly (like "Chino", "Salvo", "Chunk", "Strack", etc.), let alone going in for "tag names" yet.

Although heroes' costumes should never be used for springboards for stories, and although Tweed's motive for revenge on *Batman* was a bit weak, Robbins' story was structurally well-written and deftly developed by use of style. Robbins' dialogue is getting progressively better, and I shall hope to see him turning out *Alley Award* material soon.

But the next time he wants to write a story about—say—how *Batman* gets the chemicals for the weapons in his utility belt, stop him—PLEASE! I'm sure that 95% of *Batman's* readers couldn't care less.

—MARTIN PASKO, Clifton, N.J.
(Say, that last non-suggestion of yours may not be as outrageous as it sounds. Now if we could get 95% of the readers to demand it...!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I had thought the days of introducing new costumed villains were gone for good. That's what made the August *Detective* the issue it was. Frank Robbins has given us five great stories with five great costumed foes in the past six months: *Mr. Esper*, the "new" and improved *Catwoman*, the *Joker*, *Scarecrow*, and now —the *Masquerader*!

Part of *Masquerader's* success as a true *Bat*-foe was the story, "If the Coffin Fits—Wear It!" I must admit—I guessed the *Masquerader's* secret identity before it was made known, which was what makes the stories good. The reader has a chance to solve the mysteries along with *Batman*, although it's always a hard thing to bring about. The general idea ran smoothly and evenly which always helps in a detective story, especially when you happen to be as slow-witted as I am.

The deathtrap (if you could call a gimmicked costume a death-trap) provided by you-know-who, was a unique way of filling three pages with problems for the *Bat*-guy, who still brought around the capture of the *Masquerader* with little difficulty. But I'm tired of seeing him finish off the criminal in either the last or next-to-last panel of the story. Well, anyway, the *Masquerader* is too good a villain not to be brought back soon.

As for *Robin's* latest escapade, "Countdown to Chaos," I won't say anything. You'll get enough letters of dissent about it anyway.

—SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.
(Strangely enough, there weren't that many dissenting letters on the *Robin* story; at least none good enough to say how bad it was. A more typical reaction can be found in the concluding paragraph of the next correspondent.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Somehow, it still feels to me like a cop-out when the criminal has to give the hero a clue as to where

he is going to be performing for the hero to find him. The only exception is, of course, the *Riddler*, who tried to stop giving clues and found out that he had a psychological compulsion to do so; but that's a rare case, and not what we're dealing with here. Criminals in *Gotham City* should certainly realize by now that, whether they tell the whole city where they're stealing or do so quietly, *Batman* is sure to find out. Or at least, they know that he does so often enough that if they want to get him in their clutches, they can wait for him to show up without having to send an engraved invitation to the scene of the crime. Yet our unlikely villain, Sam Tweed, telegraphs his every move, to the consternation of his gang and for the (Robbins-induced) stupidity of the *Boy Wonder*.

Frank Robbins is the master (for what it's worth) of the "idiot" plot. That is to say, the only thing that keeps the story from ending in half the time than it actually does is that everyone in it acts like "idiots." As soon as any gang began tearing at his costume, *Batman* should have thought immediately for the possible explanations. *Batman* used to think ahead like that...in the old days. And those were the days, my friend...

"Countdown to Chaos" was quite a bit more readable than the first story. That's probably because there was more to read—more dialogue, more plot, and in general, more writing. (And the always-interesting Gil Kane artwork didn't hurt a bit!) It was nice to see that *Gotham High* has problems just like other schools do, even though writer Mike Friedrich unrealistically allowed the students to seem to have a part in resolving the problem. (In real life, students are considered as incompetent in all areas of school administration. I guess Mike was "telling it like it should be" instead of "telling it like it is". I can grant him that...) Anyhow, the *Robin* story had a nice plot, nice art, nice writing, and I'll be looking forward to reading the concluding part next issue.

—STEVEN CARLBERG, Shreveport, La.

Dear Editor:

I'm extremely glad to say that the quality of your *Batman* mags has improved greatly from the days of sickly puns and worse-than-worse art to publications of a very high caliber. I have but one complaint:

Why don't you change *Robin's* name? Sure, *Robin* fits *Robin's* character when he was younger and less in the picture, more of a children-should-be-seen-and-not-heard-character, but now that he has grown to a young adult and more in the picture, he shouldn't have a name that tags him as a "small European bird with a yellowish-red breast!"

Robin no longer plays the part of an immature little sidekick (sidekick fits him well, because he was usually kicked around so much, kept around only because you couldn't think of a believable way of ending his career!) who went along on most of the unimportant capers, burped up a couple of "YECHY" puns, and threw an occasional Batarang.

No sirree-bob, he has become the all-important identity symbol.

Please, for Dick Grayson's sake, change his monogram. Think of the inferiority complex—Dick "the *Robin*" Grayson!—MIKE DAUGHERTY, Stanley, Ky.
(To our recollection, this is the first such letter demanding a name-change for our young hero. Protestors—form a line to the right, or better yet—write us a line!—Editor)

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.



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And they are easy to care for. You get everything you need—the "ranch" aquarium where they live, the sea trees where they rest, the sea salts for creating the right environment, the silica sand for a beautiful gleaming bottom and enough sea horse food to last for months and months.



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Sea Horses Have:

- Cute Pony Heads
- Curling Grasping Tails
- Pouches for carrying baby sea horses
- Armor like scales
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Order these delightful pets today! You get everything you need and you must be delighted or you may return your sea horse ranch for full purchase price refund. Live delivery guaranteed!

FREE TRIAL COUPON

Honor House Department 86SH60
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

Rush me my Sea Horse Ranch today on your Free Trial Money Back Guarantee offer stated above. Send _____ Sea Horse Ranches. I enclose \$2.98 plus 25c shipping charges for each.

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Address _____

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N.Y. State Residents please enclose 2% sales tax.

Here is what you get:

- 2 Live Healthy Sea Horses
- Sturdy shatterproof aquarium 5x3x2 3/4
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JUDO, BOXING, SAVATE, Isometric Muscle Building, Endurance, Stunts.

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(Item No. 73)



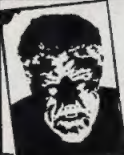
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Imagine your friends shock when they walk into your room and see the "visitor" standing around... as BIG as life... as horrible and sinister as any nightmare... and so life-like you'll probably find yourself talking to them.

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Looks like any book so no one would think to look for valuables in it. Securely locked by combination only you know—because you yourself have set it. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding. 700 \$1

SURPRISE PACKAGE



Monster-Size SKELETON

GLOWS IN THE DARK

This 5-foot "Mr. Bones" is scary enough at any time but wait'll you see him glowing in the dark! Shake him and his arms and legs move... you'd swear he's alive. If you like to haunt houses and frighten friends, this is for you! Or hang him in your room.

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Item	Name of Item	How Many	Total Price

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Model Motoring by Aurora.

**Everything else
is kid stuff.**

Model Motoring is the set used in championship competition. Everything about it separates it from any other racing game. It requires skill. You don't get bored with it . . . you get better at it. And, it's built to last. Precision built.

And whether you're at the wheel of a Ford, GTO, Ferrari or any one of Aurora's 40 different cars in HO scale, you'll be able to drift on reverse turns, spin-out in the "S's," fishtail on the flats, go all out on the straightaways.

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